

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address April 6, 2018

Our Fight Against the Opioid Epidemic

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Recently, President Trump announced his initiative to combat our nation's opioid crisis. Unfortunately, in North Texas we are all too familiar with this epidemic. At home and in neighborhoods across the country, too many Americans are dying from opioid overdoses. Parents are losing children, children are losing parents, and statistics tell us that most have felt the loss of friends, neighbors, or coworkers.

No community is immune from this crisis. As President Trump has said, this is truly the "crisis next door." Last fall, the Health Subcommittee heard ideas from more than 50 Members who represent districts from Maine to California and everywhere in between. Last month, I held a hearing on 25 bills that were a direct result of that Member Day.

Over two days, we heard from key members of the Administration and a diverse group of stakeholders who are at the forefront of our efforts to stem this epidemic. The hearing comprised of major aspects of addressing this crisis – from prevention to enforcement, and education to recovery. It is clear that this extensive problem will require a diverse set of solutions. As chairman of the Health Subcommittee, it is my privilege and responsibility to lead this important task.

Alongside President Trump, Congress is stepping up to overcome this crisis. From preventing illicit drugs from entering the country, to developing community partnerships to stem the prevalence of opioid abuse, we have made progress on preventing opioid abuse. As I have said before, this is a team effort, and everyone has a part to play. I am grateful for your continued support and partnership as we seek to end this scourge.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.